and Highways and have submitted the false undertaking that sites meet the norms;

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officers found guilty; and

(c) if not, whether the details from the HPCL would be collected to verify the fact and violations?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Discovery of Gas Hydrates in Bay of Bengal

4271. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new gas reserves namely Gas Hydrates have been discovered in Bay of Bengal offshore;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the rough estimate of gas hydrate reserve;

(c) whether India has the technology to exploit the gas hydrates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir. The presence of Gas Hydrates in offshore Bay of Bengal has been inferred from the interpretation of seismic surveys carried out in that area. However, it is yet to be established by drilling and coring technology.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) World wide, the production of gas from Gas Hydrates is at the Research & Development (R&D) stage. India has also started its efforts in carrying out R&D in this area under the National Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP).